**The Mysterious Egg**

*By Jennifer Mann and Illustrated by Lisa Chauncy Guida*

The farm slept through the gusty storm

all tucked away inside and warm,

while rafters shook and hinges squeaked,

shutters banged and branches creaked.

The night was dark. The wind blew strong.

A little egg was blown along.

Small and silent, round and white,

it rolled up to the barn that night.

Bright sky, pink clouds, the rising sun—

Rooster called, "The morning's come."

But then he noticed things amiss.

He crowed, surprised, "Whose egg is this?"

The chickens cackled from their pens,

"If there's an egg, it's from us hens."

"Don't be so quick," said Goose and Duck.

"Perhaps that egg is mine," they clucked.

Cow yawned and stretched and rolled from bed.

"I might have lost an egg," she said.

Then Rooster crowed, "Whose egg are you?"

The little egg gave not a clue.

The chickens ran to clean the roost.

"I'll dig up tasty slugs," said Goose,

while Duck fixed up a bed of reeds.

Cow polished, vacuumed, dusted, sneezed.

Then all raced back to wait and see,

each wondering, "Will it look like me?"

Small and silent, round and white,

the egg held to its secret tight.

"I think the egg looks very goosey,"

Goose declared. "I'll name it Lucy."

But Duck believed the shape so neat

was just the space for two webbed feet.

The chickens fluttered in a snit.

"That egg says hen all over it."

Cow, unsure of what to do,

said she thought she heard it moo.

They huddled up all close together.

No one moved beak, hoof, or feather.

Small and silent, round and white,

that egg was watched all through the night.

Then clunk, then crunch, then crackle-crack.

Then wiggle, waggle, woggle, whack.

And then a snap—the eggshell spread.

Out popped a baby turtle's head.

They clapped and hugged and named her Sue.

She loved her roost, and learned to moo.

She found those slugs the best to eat,

and thought her bed of reeds a treat.

The mystery's solved; the story's done.

The egg belonged to everyone!

1. Read the follow lines from the poem.

**Small and silent, round and white, the egg held onto its secret tight.**

What does “the egg held to its secret tight” mean*?*

1. The egg was too nervous to talk.
2. The egg was having trouble moving.
3. The egg was unable to give clues as to where it came from.
4. The egg was scared after hearing so many loud animal voices.
5. Which pair of words from the poem has almost the SAME meaning?
6. cackled, yawned
7. clapped, hugged
8. huddled, fluttered
9. squeaked, creaked
10. Read the following sentences from the poem.

**Out popped a baby turtle’s head.**

**They clapped and hugged**

**and named her Sue.**

**She loved her roost, and learned to moo.**

The animals are feeling

1. excited because the egg has hatched.
2. pleased because they finally get to name the egg.
3. nervous because they have been waiting for a long time.
4. relieved because the storm is over and the sun has come out.
5. Read the following sentences from the poem.

**Bright sky, pink clouds, the rising sun-**

**Rooster called, “The morning’s come.”**

**But then he noticed things amiss.**

**He crowed, surprised, “Whose egg is this?”**

Which word has the SAME meaning as the word *amiss*?

1. clean
2. organized
3. straight
4. wrong
5. Read this sentence from the poem.

**They huddled up all close together.**

**No one moved beak, hoof, or feather.**

What mood does the author create by using the words “huddle up”?

1. fearful
2. hopeful
3. playful
4. regretful
5. Which two words from the poem are most SIMILAR in meaning?
6. rolled, banged
7. cackled, clucked
8. surprised, noticed
9. yawned, stretched
10. Which sentence BEST explains what the poem is about?
11. The animals throw a celebration for a newborn duck.
12. The storm causes damage to a barn and the animals have to fix it.
13. A goose lays a mysterious egg and the other barn animals want to keep it.
14. Several farm animals discover and care for a mysterious egg after a storm.
15. The goose digs up the slugs because she wants to
16. share them with the cows and chickens.
17. eat a snack while waiting for the egg to hatch.
18. feed the animal inside the egg once it hatches.
19. prove she deserves the egg more than the others.
20. Which sentences from the poem BEST describe what is happening in the illustration?
21. Cow polished, vacuumed, dusted, and sneezed.
22. He crowed, surprised, “Whose egg is this?”
23. She loved her roost, and learned to moo.
24. Rooster called, “The morning’s come.”
25. Which word BEST describes how the animals feel about the mysterious egg at the beginning of the poem?
26. annoyed
27. disappointed
28. puzzled
29. worried

Answer Key:

1. Correct Answer is C, DOK 3
2. Correct Answer is D, DOK 2
3. Correct Answer is A, DOK 2
4. Correct Answer is D, DOK 2
5. Correct Answer is B, DOK 2
6. Correct Answer is B, DOK 2
7. Correct Answer is D, DOK 2
8. Correct answer is C, DOK 3
9. Correct Answer is B, DOK 2
10. Correct Answer is C, DOK 2